

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraphs as follows:

[0068] The holding pin 408 of the inserter/impactor 400 fits within the hole 122b,182b, and the angled flat confronting surfaces 120a-c,180a-c of the static trial 100 or disc 160 fit against the correspondingly angled flat forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400, and operation of the inserter/impactor 400 pulls the holding pin 408 toward the flat ~~surface 120b,180b~~ forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400 opposite the pin 408, to rigidly hold the static trial 100 or disc 160 by the structure of the static trial 100 or disc 160 having the hole 122b,182b (e.g., the baseplate 108b,168b). When the static trial 100 or disc 160 is held in this manner, rotation of the static trial 100 or disc 160 about a longitudinal axis (of the static trial 100 or disc 160) relative to the inserter/impactor 400 is prevented by interference of the corners of the static trial's 100 or disc's 160 flat confronting surfaces 120a-c,180a-c and the corners of the inserter/impactor's 400 flat forward surfaces 420a-c, similar to the manner in which a wrench holding a nut prevents rotation of the nut relative to the wrench. Further, the holding of the static trial 100 or disc 160 in this manner allows for some repositioning of the static trial 100 or disc 160 in the intervertebral space via rotation of the static trial 100 or disc 160 in either direction about the longitudinal axis of the intervertebral space.

[0069] Preferably, both of the baseplates of the static trial 100 or disc 160 have similarly configured flat surfaces. For example, the lower baseplate's 108b,168b flat confronting surfaces 120a-c,180a-c have similarly configured and similarly oriented counterpart flat confronting surfaces 120d-f,180d-f on the upper baseplate 108a,168a. Further preferably, both baseplates' 108a-b,168a-b flat confronting

surfaces 120a-f, 180a-f face the angled flat forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400 when the static trial 100 or disc 160 is held by the inserter/impactor 400. For example, as discussed below with regard to the inserter/impactor 400, in an anterior approach for the trial 100 (as shown in Figs. 4e-h), 120a and 120d facing 420a, 120b and 120e facing 420b, and 120c and 120f facing 420c, and in an anterior approach for the disc 160 (as shown in Figs. 4k-n), 180a and 180d facing 420a, 180b and 180e facing 420b, and 180c and 180f facing 420c.

[0070] It should be noted that preferably, when the static trial 100 is held by the inserter/impactor 400, the flat confronting surfaces 120a-c and the counterpart flat confronting surfaces 120d-f are tightly held against the angled flat forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400 as described above. It is also preferable that the baseplates 108a-b of each of the plurality of static trials 100 be appropriately lordotically angled relative to one another to ease insertion of the static trial 100 into the intervertebral space and to mimic how the artificial intervertebral disc 160 will typically be oriented as it is being inserted using the inserter/impactor 400, and to ease insertion of the static trial 100 into the intervertebral space. While not shown in Figs. 1a-f, in some embodiments, when the static trials 100 are formed in such a lordotically oriented configuration, it is preferable that the flat confronting surfaces 120d-f on the first (e.g., upper) baseplate 108a be parallel to the flat confronting surfaces 120a-c of the second (e.g., lower) baseplate 108b in the static trial's 100 appropriately lordotically oriented configuration, so that when the static trial 100 is held tightly by the inserter/impactor 400, the flat confronting surfaces 120a-f are flush with the flat forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400 even though the baseplates 108a-b are lordotically angled with respect to one another.

[0071] By contrast, preferably, when the artificial intervertebral disc 160 is held by the inserter/impactor 400, the flat confronting surfaces 180a-c are tightly held against the angled flat forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400 as described above, but the counterpart flat confronting surfaces 180d-f are loosely held against the angled flat forward surfaces 420a-c of the inserter/impactor 400. As such, the structure of the artificial intervertebral disc 160 having the counterpart flat confronting surfaces 180d-f (e.g., the upper baseplate 168a) is able to angulate and rotate to a limited extent relative to the structure of the artificial intervertebral disc 160 having the flat confronting surfaces 180a-c. This permits the artificial intervertebral disc 160 to adjust to the intervertebral space (e.g., to the angulation of the adjacent vertebral endplates, defining the intervertebral space, relative to one another) as it is being inserted thereinto. That is, typically, the adjacent vertebral endplates will be lordotically angled with respect to one another as a result of the intervertebral space being prepared and distracted. As the artificial intervertebral disc 160 is then inserted into the intervertebral space using the inserter/impactor 400, then, the baseplates 168a-b will be permitted to lordotically angle with respect to one another to squeeze into the intervertebral space.

[0072] Also preferably, in order to provide for a holding of the static trial 100 or disc 160 for two additional (here, anterioplateral) insertion approaches, each static trial 100 or disc 160 also includes two additional holes 122a,182a and 122c,182c, one (e.g., 122a,182a) spaced apart from one of the anterioplaterally facing flat confronting surfaces (e.g., 120a,180a), and the other (e.g., 122c,182c) spaced apart from the other of the anterioplaterally facing flat confronting surfaces (e.g., 120c,180c). Accordingly, operation of the

inserter/impactor 400 can fit the holding pin 408 into either of these two additional holes 122a,182a or 122c,182c, and hold the associated anteriolaterally facing flat confronting surface (the one associated with the hole into which the pin 408 is fit) of the static trial 100 or disc 160 against the flat forward surface of the inserter/impactor 400 opposite the pin 408. For example, as discussed below with regard to the inserter/impactor 400, in a first anteriolateral approach for the trial 100 (as shown in Fig. 4i), 120a and 120d facing 420b, 120b and 120e not confronted, and 120c and 120f facing 420a, and a first anteriolateral approach for the disc 160 (as shown in Fig. 4o), 180a and 180d facing 420b, 180b and 180e not confronted, 180c and 180f facing 420a. And, for example, as discussed below with regard to the inserter/

[0073] impactor 400, in a second anteriolateral approach for the trial 100 (as shown in Fig. 4j), 120a and 120d facing 420c, 120b and 120e facing 420a, and 120c and 120f not confronted, and a second anteriolateral approach for the disc 160 (as shown in Fig. 4p), 180a and 180d facing 420c, 180b and 180e facing 420a, 180c and 180f not confronted.